

success by ensuring that the apprenticeship system is modernized to address the workforce needs of the 21st century.

I support the Titus amendment and urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

I also am grateful that the ranking member is supportive of the Titus amendment. I thank everyone for their consideration, and I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING
ASSOCIATION,
November 18, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
*Republican Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), the sole national association representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry, including iconic global brands, hotel owners and franchisees, lodging real estate investment trusts (REITs), hotel management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers, I write in support of H.R. 8294, National Apprenticeship Act of 2020. This important legislation would expand the national apprenticeship system to include nontraditional apprenticeship industries and create a grant program to support registered apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and youth apprenticeship programs. AHLA also strongly supports the bipartisan amendment offered by Representatives Dina Titus (NV-1) and Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) that would specifically identify the hospitality and tourism industries as a nontraditional apprenticeship industry under Sec. 201 of the Act.

Prior to the pandemic, filling service positions was one of the hospitality industry's most significant challenges. According to the Department of Labor (DOL), it was estimated that nearly one million job vacancies remained unfilled. In order to meet the needs of the industry, AHLA and the AHLA Foundation, the charitable giving arm of the association, are developing innovative programs that invest in our workforce and are designed to open opportunities for underprivileged communities, build careers, and strengthen the lodging industry. The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 would enable our Foundation to achieve this mission through grant programs specifically targeted to our industry. Additionally, the legislation updates the National Apprenticeship Act to provide the flexibility we need to reflect modern practices while maintaining the high standards set forth by DOL.

On behalf of the more than 33,000 small business hotels, which represents over half of hotels in the country, and the millions of associates they employ, I urge the House of Representatives to swiftly pass H.R. 8294 and provide nontraditional apprenticeship industries, like the hospitality and tourism sectors, an avenue to continue to grow our workforce and support our communities. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN CRAWFORD,
*Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.*

□ 1645

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I support the three amendments en bloc. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, along with these three amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 8294 is postponed.

TRIBUTE TO MARK ANTHONY BROWN

(Ms. SLOTKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a lifelong servant of the Lansing community, Mr. Mark Anthony Brown, who passed away November 9. I had the honor of knowing him and to have learned much from him.

Born and raised in Lansing, and devoted to Lansing until his final days, he lived with relentless desire to improve himself and those around him. He was an integral part of many Lansing organizations, from the local branch of the NAACP to the Mayor's Diversity Inclusion Advisory Board. In every endeavor, he was dedicated to making sure that underrepresented voices were heard when decisions were made.

Mr. Brown was a man who was loved deeply. Guided by faith, with his family as his north star, he never stopped working for his community. Above all, Mr. Brown believed in the power of genuine connections across race, creed, background, and belief. He was a unifier who brought people together to better Lansing, and I will be forever grateful to him.

Today, I am thinking of those closest to him: His mother, his brothers and sisters, his aunts and uncles, and his four children.

I speak these words today so that his legacy is forever remembered in the permanent RECORD of the people's House, letting all who read it know: Mark Brown made a difference.

HONORING LESTER SHOFF

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing constituent and patriot from the Central Coast of California, Lester Shoff.

Raised in Pennsylvania, Lester was drafted into the Army in 1941. In fact, his draft number in the lottery was lucky number 1. Making the rank of staff sergeant, Lester was sent to the South Pacific and faced many of the challenges of serving in World War II.

He fought for 4 years on close to 10 islands in the Pacific, during which time he turned down a battlefield commission to become an officer. He was shot in the back by a sniper, and he was even stung by a scorpion.

Although Lester was the recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, his daughter, Kay, told us that he never liked discussing the war because, when he did, the unemotional Lester would be brought to tears by the memory of two men who died on a mission that he led.

After serving, Lester moved to Silicon Valley, where he worked for Lockheed and developed glue for the Space Shuttle. He then retired to the Central Coast with his family.

Madam Speaker, some say Lester was lucky; I say that we are all lucky to call Lester an American.

ADDING COUNTIES TO THE SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that would add the counties in my Congressional District—Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare—to the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Commission, or SBRC, was established to promote economic growth to help distressed regions that have historically been left behind attain socioeconomic parity with the rest of the Nation.

The Central Valley is one such region plagued by economic disparities, yet it is not part of any Federal regional commission. This must change. That is why I am here.

My district continues to be in deep need of economic development and Federal investment. Unemployment in the region is consistently higher, and education attainment consistently lower than any other region in California.

The need for more Federal investment is critical now more than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. Adding these counties and funding the SBRC will jump-start communities and small businesses, helping America “Build Back Better” while generating new economic opportunities for hardworking people who are waiting for their chance of achieving the America Dream.

STAY SAFE FROM COVID-19 DURING THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, one of the major leaders in the fight against COVID-19, Dr. Osterholm, said a few days ago that, if we continue on this same path, there will be 1,400 persons a day that may die of COVID-19.

This is a season that we gather together as family members and, as well, a season of joy. But I believe it is important for those of us who hold the reins of government, as we have been doing in this Congress under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI: One, to fight without ceasing to pass the Heroes Act legislation for dollars for our local cities and counties and States, for testing, for PPEs, and, of course, our businesses and restaurants.

Before I left Houston this week, I did a press conference to call upon my local authorities to issue a public safety alert. It was done in California, and out of that came 30,000 people to be tested. This weekend, I am calling for a citywide challenge for people to be tested before Thanksgiving.

I ask my colleagues to join me at the testing sites that are available because we must save lives. Wash your hands, where a mask, socially distance; but, on Thanksgiving, ensure that you are outside and in groups of less than 10 people.

Houston, do the testing regimen. Join us at the Allen Parkway Village. Get tested and save lives and stop community spread.

CONGRATULATING JOE McHUGH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM AMTRAK

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native son of my community, Amtrak Vice-President Joe McHugh, from Allentown, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after a storied career with our National Railroad Corporation, which he has proudly served for 26 years.

Joe served in various leadership roles for the railroad, and many here in the House of Representatives will remember him as one of Amtrak's most effective advocates in its 50-year history.

Joe helped lead Amtrak through an era of transformation and growth. He also has a unique firsthand understanding of the railroad. Over his 26 years, he accomplished the rare feat of traveling over every mile of Amtrak's more than 21,000-mile route network. Of his many accomplishments, the many people he mentored and whose careers he helped foster may well be his most important contribution to the railroad.

The House of Representatives and the Nation owe Joe McHugh a debt of gratitude for his dedication and contributions. On behalf of the House of Representatives and my community, I congratulate him on his retirement and extend our very best wishes to him as he embarks on the next chapter in his life.

NEED FOR A COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, more than 245,000 Americans have already died due to COVID-19. Cases are surging to unprecedented levels. Millions are facing poverty, food insecurity, and eviction. Low-income, homeless, and minority communities have been hit especially hard and disproportionately.

With the winter and holidays upon us, this wave threatens the health and economic well-being of our entire country. I am proud that we have already enacted four bipartisan economic relief packages that delivered targeted assistance to those impacted by this pandemic. We need to do it again. We must act now during this Congress.

Another relief package should include a robust national strategy for testing, tracing, and vaccination. Businesses, local governments, workers, and families need help to make ends meet. We must come together to deliver and help America with the urgent needs that it has and get this virus under control.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VINCENT "PIKE" ANDERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SLOTKIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vincent Anderson of Hewitt, Texas. Affectionately known as Pike by his family and friends, he passed away on October 7, 2020, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Pike was born August 18, 1944, in Sedalia, Missouri, to John Kenneth Anderson and Genevieve Katherine Collier Anderson. As a child, his family moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he graduated from Provine High School in 1962. In 1967, Pike graduated from Mississippi State University, where he was a member of the Army ROTC program and the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Following Army flight school, Pike deployed to Vietnam, where he flew AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunships for the Air Calvary. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1970 for his service in the A Shau Valley. In 1973, he was promoted to captain, and later, honorably discharged at the conclusion of his active military service.

In 1977, Pike went on to earn his master's degree from the University of South Alabama. Following graduation, they moved to Waco, Texas, where he accepted a job with the Veterans Administration. After 23 years at the VA, Pike retired in March 2000 as the chief of kinesiotherapy.

Pike served on active duty with the Texas National Guard during this time from March 1986 to August 2005, when he retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of chief warrant officer. Upon the second retirement, he worked with the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a National Service Officer assisting veterans with VA claims at the Waco VA Regional Office. In 2008, he received the Kenneth Richardson Award as the National Service Officer of the Year.

Pike retired from service with the Order of the Purple Heart as the Region 5 Deputy Regional Field Supervisor in 2015. He remained active with the local veterans community and served as a charter member, quartermaster, and commander of VFW Post 6008 in Hewitt, Texas.

In addition to his many years of dedicated military and veteran service, Pike Anderson served on the Hewitt City Council for 16 years, including two terms as mayor.

□ 1700

He was instrumental in the development of several transportation projects and the Veterans Memorial at Hewitt Park.

Pike contributed a great deal of his time to his family as well as to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit where he served on the vestry and became a lay minister. Pike and Marcia, his wife of 52 years, were blessed with three beautiful daughters and nine grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of service to his family, the community of Hewitt, and to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, Pike Anderson served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. Pike was not only a public servant; he was a devout Christian and a committed family man.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Anderson family. I have requested the United States flag be flown over the Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Pike Anderson.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, pray for our veterans, pray for our military servicemen and -women, and pray for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE EARL WEST

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joe Earl West of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 5 June 2020.

Joe West was born on 8 March 1932 in Woodward, Texas, to Joe C. and Jozie Oakes West. He grew up on his family's